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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 18 | Humidity 45% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 72,271 | Nifty 21,741 | Gold 63,322 | Silver 74,435 | Dollar 83.23 | Euro 91.97 | GBP 105.96

ZOOLANDERS

Maximum footfall at BBP

PAGE 2

BAN-ISH!

Single use plastic menace

PAGE 5

Quick fix: Cover rusted junction box and live electric wires with cardboard sheet, seal with tape

CARDBOARD SAFEGUARD

Street light junction box along 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Perhaps the two recent tragic incidents that claimed three lives within a span of one month compelled Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) to wake up from slumber.

The Bescom soon began covering junction boxes of street lights at some important locations in the city. However, the residents and pedestrians want the Bescom authorities to fix the problem on a permanent basis instead of what seems to be a knee-jerk reaction.

On Saturday, this correspondent found three Bescom employees covering a street light junction box at BM Shree Circle near KFC on 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar.

The rusted and open junction box along the footpath was covered with a cardboard sheet and sealed with a tape. One of the Bescom employees said they do not want people to come into contact with the live wires accidentally while walking on the footpath.

When asked why they are covering the box with a cardboard sheet instead of removing the rusted junction box, they said the junction box belongs to the traffic police.

Surprisingly, the office of the assistant commissioner of police (traffic) is situated just a few metres away from BM Shree Circle; one police constable 'manages or regulates' traffic from a cabin situated just on the other side of the road at the BM Shree Circle; but no one attended to the rusted junction box that has live electric wires that pose a hazard all these days.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"All wires protruding from street light junction boxes are taped with insulation tapes — Bescom press release

Urban, wild & vulnerable

BBMP, Bannerghatta Biological Park, NGOs to set up urban wildlife rescue centre

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As Bengaluru continues to expand, encounters with wildlife in the city are becoming commonplace each passing day.

According to the officials from the forest department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the number of wildlife rescue calls from various parts of the city has increased multifold over the last few months.

To manage this surge, BBMP, in association with Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) and city-based NGOs are to set up a wildlife rescue-cum-rehabilitation centre.

The centre, with a capacity to rescue and rehabilitate at least 30 animals, and birds, will be located at BBP.

"The number of calls on the department's helpline regarding wildlife in distress has been going through the roof. We are getting three to four calls every week to save monkeys, four to five calls every month regarding other small mammals, and nearly four calls every day for snake rescues. Many reports of small animals entering people's houses come in too. While our team tries to attend to all these calls, it is increasingly becoming difficult to manage without a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Classic moves

Celebrate the richness of Indian classical dances, presented by Venkatesha Natya Mandir. 'Rasa Sanje', an annual dance festival, aims to promote and increase awareness of Indian classical dance. The festival has been known to provide a forum for national and international dancers to show their choreographies. **Where: Ada Ranga Mandira, JC Road; When: January 5,6, and 7; 10 am**

02 Artisans' bazaar

The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition is back in town with the latest collection of artistic goodies. The exhibition-cum sale has been organised by Maaruthi Enterprises. You can explore a range of handicrafts, including Odisha tie and dye, handlooms, jewellery, gems, bed rugs from Uttar Pradesh, Kalamkari sarees, earrings, kurtas, and more. **Where: Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana, RBI Layout, CA03, Kothnur Main Road, JP Nagar 7th Phase; When: until January 10; 10am to 9 pm**

03 Comic scenes

The Indian Institute of Cartoonists is all set to organise a unique exhibition, showcasing some of the old, new, and rare cartoons and photographs that will be featured in the second edition of IIC magazine. It includes the works of RK Laxman, Shankar Pillai, Abu Abraham, Paul Fernades, Hemant Morparia, and more. The first issue of the magazine was launched last year as part of the 15th anniversary of the Indian Cartoon Gallery.
Where: The Indian Cartoon Gallery
When: January 6, 2024

Picnic at the zoo

Bannerghatta Biological Park experiences significant increase in visitors during New Year holidays; experts say it is not safari but zoo animals that are visitors' favourite pick

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More than 40,000 people, including children, thronged the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) over the last two days as the zoo witnessed high footfall this holiday season.

While park authorities recorded over 22,000 visitors on January 1 (Monday), more than 18,000 people visited BBP on December 31 (Sunday). Both days put together, BBP collected a little over Rs 86 lakh in revenue. On December 31, the total revenue collected was around Rs 46.3 lakh, and on January 1, a little over Rs 39 lakh was generated in revenue. This swell in visitors and revenue generated was noticed throughout December, as BBP witnessed the highest footfall in December over the last six years. Over 2.18 lakh people visited the park in December 2023, generating Rs 5.8 crore in revenue, the highest amount ever in December.

Nearly 2 lakh visitors were recorded in December 2022, 1.4 lakh in December 2021, a little over 87 thousand visited BBP in December 2020, as many as 1.7 lakh footfall was recorded in December 2019, and a little over 1.73 lakh visitors thronged the park in December 2018. According to park authorities, it is not the safari but zoo animals that are the popular choice of New Year's visitors.

The swell in visitors and revenue generated was noticed throughout December 2023, as BBP witnessed the highest footfall in the month over the last six years

"We cannot exactly predict the reason behind such trends, but it can be due to the population growth of the city. Moreover, there are not many choices left for the middle and lower-income classes. Malls are becoming expensive, and people do not want to go there with children, especially migrants from economically weaker sections of society. A little more data crunch will show that the safari is not in demand for the New Year. Moreover, the entry fee for the park has also not increased over the last five years. This has made it even more convenient for them," said AV Surya Sen, deputy conservator of forests and executive director of BBP. BBP authorities also informed BM that efforts are underway to further increase footfall. "There are many plans in the ideation stage, but none of them are concrete yet. Moreover, more visitors also imply that we will have to improve our efficiency, and we are working in that direction," added Sen.

BBP had recently announced that patrons and visitors will soon be treated to a view of exotic animals such as jaguars, pumas, and hunting cheetahs. The park is expected to get as many as 15 new exotic animals for viewing in the coming year. As per the proposal, these will include two chimpanzees, six Hamadryas baboons, one giraffe, two jaguars, two pumas, and two hunting cheetahs in at least four new enclosures in the park area. All these animals are highly likely to be coming in from countries like South Africa, Singapore, and the Czech Republic, and it will take at least six to seven months for the animals to be available for viewing.

BBP had also started the holiday season with a daily guided tour showcasing newborn zoo animals at the park.

January 1 birthdays: More common than you think!

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Monday wasn't just the beginning of a new year but also the birthdays of 'too many' people as social media was abuzz with notifications from people celebrating their birthdays.

Educationists say that while a majority celebrating birthdays on January 1 are genuine, there is also a section of people whose birthdays are on January 1 due to the convenience of the date. Educationists say that this is the reason why many have birthday dates either on January 1 or June 1. Raghavendra HB, a businessman, said, "On January 1, Facebook shows me that 'so many' of your friends have their birthdays. We even saw some posts on Facebook by a person saying that 50 of their friends had birthdays, while another guy bragged that 60 of his friends shared their birthdays."

Educationists have an answer to this mystery. They say that, there may be many cases where officially January 1 or June 1 was entered as the birth date during school admissions.

Suma Kumar, a principal of a private school, said, "In the earlier days, many people would not remember their birth dates, so they used to give some fake date of birth, and the convenient one was the start of school. Whenever parents were asked when the birthday was, they would either think of January 1, as it was easier to remember, or June 1, the first day of the academic year. However, over the years, things have changed now, with birth certificates and even Aadhaar cards being mandatory."

Mystery behind why so many of our Facebook friends share birthdays

Ratna R, a teacher, added, that earlier, birth certificates were not that important.

"Over the past 20–25 years, this has become serious, and now all the students have their birth certificates in hand. Basically, these are the people who would have updated it long ago, and it would continue."

Many said that it's intriguing that there is a growing trend of people being a bit cagey about their birthdays on social media.

Sumadhura Reddy, a techie, said, "January1 is a riot of birthday celebrations! I've got almost 20 friends throwing parties. I have my suspicions about a few. When they set up an account, it's almost like a secret code—click, and there it is—January or June 1! Why the recurring January/June 1 theme park? Well, it turns out, for many, their entire academic journey, from those first ABCs in school to the college farewell, all started around June."

Shruti KS, a homemaker, added that she had more than 10 birthday reminders popping up on her social media feed. "Why hasn't Facebook caught on to this January 1 tactic? It's like this unspoken agreement where people slyly rewrite their timelines."

THE GREAT 2024 BASH

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Police identify 330 cases of motorists driving under influence of alcohol; check 2,352 vehicles in traffic south division alone

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During the new year's celebrations, Bengaluru traffic police conducted thorough checks on over 7,620 vehicles, resulting in 330 drunk driving cases against motorists found operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol.

The traffic police said that from December 31 until midnight, there were reports of one fatal accident and ten non-fatal accidents. Additionally, from midnight to 7 am on January 1, three fatal accidents were reported.

In the traffic south division alone, 2,352 vehicles were checked, and 90 cases of drunken driving were recorded. The highest number of cases were recorded in Madivala, where 17 people were caught.

Followed by 15 people caught in Hulimavu, 11 in Talaghattapura, and 10 in KS Layout.

This year, the police have been very strict with drunk driving cases, as the traffic police informed that in 2023, they booked 7,055 cases for drunk driving.

16 people lost their lives on Bengaluru roads due to driving under influence in 2023 as well.

People who were out celebrating New Year said that they spotted police checkpoints at various junctions in the city.

"The areas near Brigade Road were crowded at night and felt like there would be a stampede. But the police were present there, handling the crowd. I saw a few people coming from BTM that were speeding; however, police were catching all those people; you could see policemen every few metres at night till 2 am," said a resident.

A few women also claimed that drunk men misbehaved with them while they were on MG Road.

MG Road saw a huge crowd on the occasion of New Year Eve; policemen could be seen every few metres until 2 am; there were also checkpoints at various junctions in the city

Horror after party: Man murdered

In a tragic incident during the celebrations, a disagreement among inebriated friends escalated into a fatal altercation. Vijay, a 21-year-old, lost his life after reportedly being stabbed in the chest during the dispute. The drunk friends allegedly pushed Vijay out of an auto near the Srinivasanagar bus stand, leaving him to succumb to severe bleeding. The Hanumantanagar police are actively searching for the accused.

2023 traffic stats snapshot

According to the data by the Bengaluru traffic police, 909 people died in road accidents and 4,201 people were injured in 2023. The city recorded 880 fatal and 4,095 non-fatal accidents. The police registered more than 87 lakh cases in contactless enforcement and collected fines of Rs 184.83 crore. The police also said that 22 green corridors were created for medical emergencies.

Liquor worth over Rs 18 cr sold on NYE

MSIL liquor outlets recorded a total sale of Rs 18.85 crore on December 31 in Bengaluru, an official statement said. It said that the sale was recorded at 1,031 liquor outlets across the state.

According to MSIL Managing Director Manojkumar, this is an increase of Rs 4.34 crore as compared to the sales of Rs 14.51 crore on the same day of the previous year (December 31, 2022).

An outlet near Raichur railway station recorded the highest sales of Rs 11.66 lakh, followed by another outlet on the Gunj Road of the same city, turning sales of Rs 9.96 lakh, as per the statement.

Among the districts, Bengaluru Urban topped the list, with sales touching Rs 1.82 crore. On the same day in the previous year, the district had sold liquor worth Rs 1.35 crore, as per the statement.

The sales at the upgraded, first-of-its-kind MSIL Boutique, which was inaugurated on Monday at Thimmaiah Road in Basaveshawaranagara, touched Rs 3.5 lakh.

The same outlet recorded sales of Rs 2.59 lakh on the same day in the previous year, it said. While on normal days, the total sales of liquor at MSIL outlets in the state would be around Rs 8 crore. ANI

...And an even greater afterparty clean-up

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The efforts and hard work of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Solid Waste Management Department to clear garbage generated on the eve of New Year celebrations in the Central Business District (CBD) area have received appreciation from the public.

Thousands of people gathered on Church Street, Brigade Road, Residency Road, MG Road, and surrounding areas to welcome the New Year have generated eight metric tons of garbage. As soon as the revellers left the CBD area, more than 40 pourakarmikas began clearing garbage at 3.30 am.

"Around 80 pourakarmikas took part in the cleaning programme. One batch of 40 pourakarmikas worked at 3.30 am and another batch of 40 pourakarmikas joined in cleaning garbage in the CBD area at 6.30 am. We made arrangements to supply breakfast for pourakarmikas," said BBMP Solid Waste Management assistant executive engineer Appuraj.

He said the pourakarmikas collected eight metric tonnes of garbage and two tonnes of dry waste that could be recycled. The dry waste was sent to a nearby dry waste collection centre.

A volunteer from The Ugly Indians said, "When there is proper planning and implementation, it is possible to achieve clean streets by 7 am—even on the most difficult day of the year, New Year's Day. A few volunteers from The Ugly Indians coordinated and supported the BBMP effort; all the work was done by pourakarmikas," he said.

Sanjay Kumar Pal, president of the Residents' Welfare Association of Rest House Park Area, appreciated the BBMP authorities for the cleaning drive launched at 3.30 am on January 1. "I have to thank police officers for managing everything efficiently on the eve of New Year celebrations in the CBD area," he added.

Meanwhile, it is stated that too many restrictions and barricades on some crossroads on Brigade Road have affected the business of pubs and restaurants. "A group of people entered a bar and restaurant on Sunday night. They bought only one beer bottle and started dancing. Their quench to showcase their dancing skills has affected other customers," said a bar and restaurant owner.

Pourakarmikas clearing garbage on Brigade Road at 3:30 am on Jan 1; Brigade Road after cleaning

Driving dismay: Horamavu's bumpy ride needs urgent fix

Residents of Horamavu demand civic body's action as deteriorating road conditions at Agara railway crossing pose grave risks to commuter safety and urban mobility

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The residents of Horamavu are concerned about one glaring issue, the deteriorating condition of the road at the Horamavu Agara railway crossing. The neglected state of this crucial thoroughfare poses significant risks to commuters and demands urgent attention from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The road adjacent to the manned railway gate at Horamavu Agara serves as a stark reminder of negligence in maintaining urban infrastructure. Deep and extensive potholes mar the entire stretch, creating hazardous conditions that not only jeopardise vehicle safety but also contribute to frequent traffic snarls as drivers cautiously navigate the deteriorated road. The situation escalates during the rainy season, exacerbating the difficulties faced by road users.

Jayalekshmi, a resident of Horamavu, stated, "The road between Babusapalya to Horamavu Agara, closer to the manned railway crossing, has transformed into a commuter's nightmare due to the presence of deep potholes and inadequate maintenance. The stretch is filled with potholes for about half a kilometre. This has persisted for at least 5 to 6 months, making daily travel on this road a significant challenge. Numerous school buses ply here, adding to the complexity of the situation."

Kumar, a local business owner, emphasised, "The condition of the road affects not only commuters but also businesses in the area. Deliveries are delayed, and customers are deterred from visiting due to the poor state of the road."

Poor road conditions plague Horamavu, causing inconvenience

> **"The condition of the road affects not only commuters but also businesses in the area**
>
> – Kumar, local business owner

Although repairs were conducted on the stretch from Horamavu Agara to Hennur - Bagalur main road some time ago, the road remains barely usable. Moreover, the road from Horamavu Agara junction to Horamavu Lake is also in a pathetic state, aggravating the challenges faced by residents and commuters.

Subhashini Menon, a Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) leader from Horamavu, highlighted the pressing need for an infrastructure overhaul in rapidly growing urban areas. She stated, "The road at Horamavu Agara railway crossing stands as a testament to the urgent need for infrastructure improvement. These challenges compromise commuter safety and reflect poorly on the city's commitment to providing adequate infrastructure for its residents."

Ravi, another BNP leader from Horamavu, pointed out the cyclical nature of infrastructure improvements coinciding with elections. He emphasised the need for change, stating, "The BBMP should conduct regular checks on roads and footpaths, and citizens should actively participate in ward committee meetings to address such issues efficiently. This approach ensures accountability and keeps the civic body's works in check at all times."

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Abandoned car
RT Nagar

A car has been parked outside a house near the BBMP Park at 12th Cross, RT Nagar, for a month without being claimed. Necessary steps should be taken to move it from there.

Road obstacle
JP Nagar

There is a road hump opposite TEXS Mart, JP Nagar, causing navigation issues for heavy vehicles, except for two-wheelers.

IN THE COURT OF THE SUBORDINATE JUDGE AT VANIYAMBADI, TIRUPATHUR DISTRICT, TAMILNADU
O.S. 259/2022

Jabeen Taj ...Plaintiff
V/s
1. Mubeen Taj
2. Fuad ... Defendants

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS

1st and 2nd defendants in the said case 1. Mubeen Taj W/O Fuad, 2. Fuad S/O Not Known the Plantiff, both are residing at No. 2, 2nd cross street, Muthamma Garden, Bangalore North, Benson Town, Bangalore 560046. The plaintiff has repeatedly sent summons and is deliberately evading. In the aforesaid case for declare the suit property belongs to the plaintiff, seeking relief, I.A. 1/2022 has filed a petition for injunction and in I.A. 2/2022 for inspection of the suit property by the Court Commissioner. If you have any objection in the said case, both are requested to appear in the above Hon'ble court at 10.30 am on 02.02.2024 and express your objection. This makes it clear that the case is acase in point of fact. This notification is issued vide order dated 28.11.2023 of the Hon'ble Subordinate Court, Vaniyambadi.

By
Sd/- U. Hakkeem, BA, BL,
Advocate, MS. No. 1953/2012
No. 2/B4, C.S. Complex,
P.J.Nehru Street, Vaniyambadi- 635751.

Inconvenience peaks as drain problems hit residential area

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Around 50 families residing at Supertech Micasa, a residential apartment complex situated on Kannur-Bellahalli Road, have been running from pillar to post, expecting the authorities concerned to fix the drain that was opened more than ten days ago.

With the drain open in front of the main entrance of the residential apartment complex, residents are unable to take out their four-wheelers either to go to workplaces or to take senior citizens to the hospital for medical checkups.

The residents argue that it is the duty of the authorities who initiated the drain work to promptly address and rectify the issue without causing unnecessary inconvenience to the residents. The predicament for the residents is exacerbated by the location of their apartment complex, positioned between Kannur Village Panchayat and Kogilu ward. Frustratingly, the residents note that both the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities and Kannur Panchayat officials seem to be avoiding addressing the problem.

"The drain was opened on December 20 to remove silt and fix a water leakage problem, but unfortunately, the workers failed to cover the drain afterward. The uncertainty about how long we have to endure this situation due to the delay in completing the drain work is causing significant concern.

Despite contacting the BBMP engineer, he mentioned that he did not engage workers to open the drain. We urgently appeal to the authorities responsible for opening the drain to address and rectify this problem at the earliest," said Keshav, a resident.

The open drain in front of Supertech Micasa apartment complex

When contacted, BBMP assistant engineer Nanja Reddy said that the drain was opened by Kannur Village Panchayat. "I have advised Kannur Village Panchayat president to complete the drain work as early as possible to avoid inconvenience to the residents of Supertech Micasa," said the assistant engineer.

Meanwhile, Kannur Village Panchayat president Ashok S stated that the panchayat has undertaken the drain work, even though it does not fall under the panchayat's jurisdiction. "Recently, four people were killed in road accidents due to the poor condition of the road.

The builder of the apartment complex can make temporary arrangements for the benefit of the residents. We have taken up the drain work to assist the residents of Supertech Micasa and also to prevent road accidents. We will complete the work in a few days," said Ashok.

Metro minds gap on Nagasandra-Silk Institute stretch

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To address waterlogging between Nagasandra and Silk Institute, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited will be taking up slope correction work.

BMRCL has been observing some defects with the construction of the viaduct between Nagasandra and Silk Institute. Waterlogging issues were observed at several stretches on this part of the Green Line. Now, BMRCL will be taking some corrective measures to avoid the problem.

A BMRCL official told Bangalore Mirror, "We have been seeing waterlogging on the viaduct between Nagasandra and Silk Institute. Water is retained on several stretches after rains. This happens due to two reasons: In some places, the slope of the viaduct leads to waterlogging and in some places, there are pothole-like formations on the viaduct. It's not possible to identify the problem while constructing. Water retention on concrete is not good for the structure."

He added that BMRCL will be using epoxy material to level out the slope and fill the formations. To avoid inconvenience to commuters, work will be carried out after 12 am.

Waterlogging was observed at stretches on the Green Line

BMRCL has floated a tender for slope correction work on the viaduct deck slab in this stretch at the cost of Rs 42,97,500. As per the tender, the contract period extends to 12 months.

BMRCL floats tender for slope correction work as slant in viaduct is leading to waterlogging at some spots between the two stations on Green Line

The corrective work extends up to 30.32 km from Nagasandra to Silk Insititute with 26.39 km of elevated line and 3.93 km of underground network of the Green Line. Under the line, the metro stations are Nagasandra, Dasarahalli, Jalahalli, Peenya Industry, Peenya, Goraguntepalya, Yeshwanthpur, Sandal Soap Factory, Mahalakshmi, Rajajinagar, Mahakavi Kuvempu Road, Srirampura, Mantri Square Sampige Road, National College, Lalbagh, South End Circle, Jayanagar, Rashtriya Vidyalaya Road, Banashankari, Jayaprakash Nagar, Yelachenahalli, Konanakunte Cross, Doddabidarakallu, Vajarahalli, Talagattapura and Silk Institute.

Last year, stations at Sandal Soap Factory, Mahalakshmi Layout, Rajajinagar, and Mahakavi Kuvempu Road were briefly closed due to the breaking down of railroad vehicles on the Green Line.

21 complaints in 10 months; pop goes the plastic ban

Banned items available and disposed of freely, pointing to low awareness, implementation

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Over the last 10 months (March – December 2023), Bengaluru has registered only 21 complaints against banned single-use plastic (SUP) items on the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) mobile application.

Between September 2022 and March 2023, as many as 446 complaints were recorded.

Experts say the number of complaints against banned SUP from Bengaluru has more or less remained the same, indicating that the initiative has run out of steam in the city.

They also highlight that despite BBMP's best efforts; banned SUPs are still being sold and used rampantly across the city.

"The momentum that I saw earlier this year, not just in Karnataka and in Bengaluru but in other parts of the country as well, is surely tapering out. We need much more conversation around the issue. I spent hours on the first morning of the year on the streets segregating banned plastic items. Ironically, we could see many buying flowers for a New Year puja in banned plastic bags. While our volunteers have been requesting vendors and shoppers to start carrying their bags and not to use banned items, these items are available everywhere," said Odette Katrak, founder of Beautiful Bengaluru.

According to data from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Solid Waste Management (SWM) Department, between July 2022 (since the ban was enforced) and October 2023, the Palike confiscated nearly 62,000 kg of the banned plastic through over 56,000 cases.

A total sum of over Rs 1.67 crore in fines has been generated too.

Banned items such as plastic bags, flags, thermocol, plates, cutlery are seen strewn in garbage

Ineffective ban

However, experts say despite 1.5 years since the Centre's ban, plastic seems to be visible on streets in higher quantities than pre-covid levels. While the vendors are freely using them, customers are freely carrying banned items. More awareness on what is banned and what is not is the need of the hour and an effective awareness campaign has been missing in the picture.

"We need agencies such as BBMP and KSPCB to clamp down on supply into the system. Volunteers working on-ground towards behaviour change find that once people know the harmful impacts and that the items are banned, they are willing to change. However, awareness is lacking with many believing that certain kinds of plastic bags are made up of cloth and compostable bags and bin liners are fine," added Katrak.

> **"Volunteers find that once people know the harmful impacts and that the items are banned, they are willing to change. However, awareness is lacking**
> –Odette Katrak, Beautiful Bengaluru

"Every time we go to shops, there are stacks available. The priority should be to find the source and stop the flow. Ongoing enforcement and raids need to happen at a much higher rate. Unless a change is brought about in consumers' behavior, the situation will not improve. While BBMP might be seizing banned items and imposing fines, not much is happening to spread awareness about the banned items and bring about the desired behavioral change," said a city-based SWM expert.

Don't use these

As many as 19 Single Use Plastic (SUP) items were to be banned starting July 1, 2022. The central pollution watchdog had announced that anyone caught using, selling, manufacturing, distributing, importing, or stocking these products would be penalised. These items include earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, plastic plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, PVC banners less than 100 micron and stirrers.

Yet another fish kill puts count in 2023 at 20

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The number of fish kills recorded in the year 2023 stands at 20, after a fishkill was recorded in the Gangashetty lake on Saturday. Residents and lake activists have urged authorities to pay attention towards the need for oversight over the health of lakes.

A study by ActionAid Association regarding fish kills in Bengaluru (2017-22) had noted that the number of fish kills episodes between the five years was 32. In 2022, eight episodes of fish kills were recorded whereas the number has significantly increased to 20 in 2023. The study had noted that 51% of the fish kills had been due to entry of sewage into lakes. "Sewage constituting 51% seems to be the biggest challenge

Study notes, in 5 years city saw 32 fish kills; 51% of these episodes are due to untreated sewage entering city's lakes, using up all the oxygen

making lakes vulnerable to fishkills in Bengaluru. Organic matter in sewage uses up the dissolved oxygen (DO) in the lake causing levels of DO to reduce which ultimately causes fish kills. Disposal of effluents containing toxins/chemicals and solid waste dumping in the storm water drain contributes to 33% of causes for fishkill. Effluents are a threat to aquatic life, depending upon the quantity might affect a portion or larger portion of the waterbody," the study had observed.

Lake activists have consistently called on the custodian of lakes Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to collaborate, and ensure that the inlets into the lake are monitored in order to keep lakes healthy. Residents on the other hand have called for an effective grievance redressal system to be put in place for them to report issues such as sewage entry immediately, so that authorities can act on the problem instantly.

Mission victory over anaemia

Over 9 lakh children in state have been screened under Anaemia Mukt Poushtika Karnataka programme; government aims to make K'taka anaemia-free by 2025

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In a significant stride towards a healthier future, Karnataka has launched the 'Anaemia Mukt Poushtika Karnataka' (AMPK) action plan, aligning with the Government of India's Anaemia Free India Programme. The state cabinet approved the initiative on October 5, 2023, following the recommendations of Niti Aayog. The much-anticipated plan was officially inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah, on November 22, 2023. So far, 9 lakh plus children have been screened in the state.

Anaemia is a medical condition characterised by a decrease in the number of red blood cells or a low concentration of haemoglobin in the blood. Haemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that binds with oxygen and carries it to tissues and organs throughout the body.

With a total grant of Rs185.74 crore sanctioned by the government on October 13, 2023, the AMPK action plan aims to combat anemia by implementing comprehensive measures across the state. The concerted effort is a crucial step towards achieving a healthier population and aligns with the broader vision of a malnutrition-free India.

The ambitious initiative kicked off its first phase with an extensive anaemia survey, commencing on November 22, 2023, covering all districts in the state. The survey protocol prioritises screening pre-graduation college children, including those in government, government-aided, and private institutions. Subsequent phases will extend to schoolchildren and Anganwadi children, with the entire process meticulously recorded in the Swasthya Kirana software.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Anaemia is a condition characterised by a decrease in the number of red blood cells or a low concentration of haemoglobin in the blood

As of December 16, 2023, the survey has successfully screened a total of 9,17,134 college children, revealing that 3,14,475 are grappling with anemia. "The identified individuals, falling under the categories of mild or moderate anaemia, will receive Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets to address their nutritional needs. Meanwhile, those diagnosed with severe anaemia will be promptly referred to the nearest public healthcare facility equipped with laboratory capabilities for comprehensive investigations and necessary interventions like blood transfusions," said a Health and Family Welfare Department official.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, in collaboration with the state women and child department, is spearheading the initiative with the goal of making Karnataka anaemia-free by 2025. The comprehensive approach targets the screening of 52 lakh children aged 6–59 months, 58 lakh children aged 5–9 years, 127 lakh adolescents aged 10–19 years, 12 lakh pregnant women, 11 lakh lactating mothers, and 133 lakh women in the reproductive age group (20–49 years, excluding pregnant women and lactating mothers).

> **"Those diagnosed with severe anaemia are promptly referred to the nearest public healthcare facility equipped with lab facilities** – Health dept official

Experts have pointed out that early detection and intervention are critical to managing anemia. The action plan outlines strategies for timely identification of anaemic individuals, allowing for prompt administration of interventions like iron and folic acid (IFA) supplements or referral to healthcare facilities for severe cases.

Karnataka records 229 new covid cases

Karnataka recorded 229 new covid-19 infections in the last 24 hours, according to the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

However, the state did not witness any fatalities in the same period, it said. With the latest number of infections, the total number of cases has reached 4,090,507, as per the data.

It further stated that 62 patients were discharged in the last 24 hours, taking the total number to 4,049,135. The positivity rate stood at 6.49 per cent in the last 24 hours, it said. The number of active cases stands at 1000.

A total of 3,527 samples were tested for coronavirus, while around 2,972 RT-PCR tests have been conducted in the state in the last 24 hours. Around 555 RAT tests were also conducted during the same period. Earlier in December, amid an uptick in covid cases reported in the state, the Karnataka government constituted a cabinet sub-committee to tackle the situation and monitor the viral disease.

The committee includes Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, cabinet ministers Sharan Prakash Patil, HC Mahadevappa, and MC Sudhakar.

– ANI

BM Trippin' Tales

The rise & rise of ethical travel

Face of travel has completely changed in last 3 years with more emphasis now on safety, sanitation

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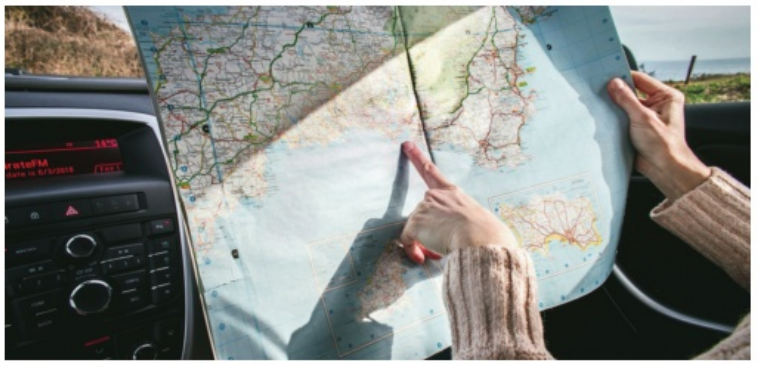
When we think of trends, we often think about whether they were pre- or post-covid. In fact, covid changed a lot of things we would do. Similarly, the covid pandemic gave birth to ethical travellers who are not just bothered about personal leisure but also about the place they visit and its people.

It is this steadily growing travel group that the tourism industry will have to cater to in the future, according to travel experts. They say that travel has completely changed in the last three years, and now the emphasis is more on safety and sanitation, with people preferring short trips to destinations that are closer to home rather than exotic locations.

A traveller said, "The last three years have taught us that nothing can last forever. People have suffered and lost a close family member due to the pandemic, and people want to be connected to other people. This has given birth to ethical travellers. An ethical traveller is a combination of uber travellers (junkie travellers) and vanity-driven travellers (who are trendsetters and don't mind spending). They are looking for experience and want to be connected with the place they visit. That is where achieving sustainable development goals and responsible tourism are key."

Travel experts also say that there is a surge of anxious travellers who need lots of confirmation, reassurance, and advice.

This will lead to demand for tour operations as these anxious travellers will prefer more personalised and customised trips rather than group tours.



> **Travel experts also say that there is a surge of anxious travellers who need lots of confirmation**

"People value life and don't want to restrict it for the rat race. They want a work-life balance. This has led to preference for short trips with a small group rather than long tours and larger groups," added another travel expert, stressing the fact that safety and hygiene were key for every traveller and that many tourists were now enquiring about responsible tourism.

Vamsi Krishna, a regular traveller, said, "Prioritising personal hygiene isn't just a choice; it's an ethical decision. As avid travellers, we've come to realise that ensuring our own cleanliness isn't just about us—it's about the communities we visit. Simple habits, like regular handwashing and respectful mask usage, aren't just personal precautions; they are ethical steps to protect those we encounter on our journeys. Travelling with a commitment to personal hygiene is a silent promise to contribute positively to the places we explore, leaving behind memories, not worries."

Many believe that by making personal hygiene a priority in their journey, they contribute to the collective well-being of the places they visit.

Sunetra Gowda, another trekker, said, "Simple acts, like carrying a personal sanitisation kit and being mindful of our surroundings, have become the new norms for conscious travellers. It's not just about safeguarding ourselves but also demonstrating a deep respect for the environments and cultures we engage with. Ethical travel, in its essence, involves a heightened awareness of our actions and their ripple effects. It's a small yet impactful step towards a more responsible and compassionate approach to travel in the post-covid world."

BDA's resurgence: Site allocation, PRR kick-off

Determined to overcome past setbacks, Bangalore Development Authority gears up for major projects and promises renewed era of progress

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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The vision and mission of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) for the year 2024 suggest a determined effort to reclaim lost glory. In recent years, the BDA made headlines for the wrong reasons, but it is now actively working to achieve its goals and meet deadlines in 2024.

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) faced a setback in the allotment of sites in Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout, nearly 15 years after issuing the preliminary notification for its formation. The Supreme Court intervened by appointing a monitoring committee, led by retired Judge Justice A V Chandrashekar, to oversee land acquisition and the regularisation of buildings predating 2018. Despite assurances from the then BDA Commissioner G Kumar Naik, who took office in February 2023, promising site allotments by the end of that year, the BDA fell short of fulfilling its commitment at Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout.

The BDA failed to allot sites in Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout almost 15 years after issuing the preliminary notification for the formation of the layout. The Supreme Court had to appoint a monitoring committee headed by Justice A V Chandrashekar, a retired judge, to oversee land acquisition and regularisation of buildings predating 2018. It may be recalled that the previous BDA Commissioner G Kumar Naik, while assuming office in February 2023, said that allotment of sites would commence by the end of 2023 but the BDA failed to allot the sites at Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout.

Site allocation to begin in Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout this year

"We have decided to allot around 30,000 sites to the farmers and revenue site holders during the year 2024. We are confident of achieving the target of allocating residential sites in Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout this year
– Jayaram N, BDA Commissioner

"We have decided to allot around 30,000 sites to the farmers and revenue site holders during the year 2024. We are confident of achieving the target of allocating residential sites in Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout this year," said BDA Commissioner Jayaram N.

It may be recalled that the Justice AV Chandrashekar committee in September said that the BDA would start allotment of sites and plots to those who had voluntarily surrendered land for the formation of the layout on a priority basis.

The other prestigious and much-delayed gigantic project that remained a pipe dream for 18 years is the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR). The 8-lane PRR is expected to connect Tumkur Road and Hosur Road via Hesaraghatta Road, Doddaballapur Road, Ballari Road, Hennur Road, Old Madras Road, Hoskote Road, and Sarjapur Road.

"We are making arrangements to float a global tender for the PRR project. We are hopeful of completing the tendering process and commencing the work on the proposed PRR in the year 2024," said Jayaran.

The BDA claims that the proposed PRR would decongest traffic in Bengaluru, provide access to the Kempegowda International Airport without any hassles, and ensure better connectivity between the national highways and state highways on the city outskirts.

The BDA is expected to prepare a comprehensive development plan (CDP) in the year 2024 for the next 15 years. "The process of preparing the CDP for Bangalore will begin next year. It will prepare the plan for the development of Bengaluru in the next 15 years," Jayaran said.

However, many people who have bought sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout are not happy with the progress of developmental works taken up at the layout. They complain that the BDA engineers are focusing on Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout and neglecting Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.

FKCCI to champion trade amid regulatory challenges

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The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), the apex body of trade and industry in Karnataka, is gearing up to organise many programs for the growth and development of trade and industry in the state in the year 2024. "The Central and State Governments have announced programs, but in reality, there are many problems when it comes to the ease of doing business. The FKCCI, as an apex body, is contemplating focusing on this issue," said FKCCI president Ramesh Chandra Lahoti.

The FKCCI is set to organise awareness programs among the traders and businessmen across the state, emphasising the importance of their active participation in making Karnataka a one-trillion economy as part of the country's target to become a 5 trillion economy by the end of the year 2024. "Karnataka is the second largest GST zone in the country. We will organise awareness programs for the benefit of traders and businessmen," he said.

The FKCCI is not happy with the basic amenities and developmental works at the layouts developed by the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB). FKCCI wants the state government to support industrialists who have bought land at industrial layouts to establish industrial units. "The problem with the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) is that it forgets about the industrial layout or special economic zone after allotting the sites to the industrialists. I want the KIADB or any government agency to be ready to take up developmental and infrastructure works as per the requirement. The infrastructure at the industrial layouts has to be upgraded to ensure no hassles for those who establish industrial units," opined Lahoti.

India gears up for spectacular year in sports

Sporting action will reach its peak in the New Year of 2024. Numerous major sporting events are slated to be held around the world, and Indian teams will actively participate in them. Moreover, a substantial number of events are scheduled to take place within India, adding to the excitement. Sports enthusiasts will need to search for online bookings and keep their television screens wide open to enjoy all the action, whether from the sidelines or the comfort of their homes.

The New Year kicks off with the Asian Cup football in Qatar from Friday, January 12, 2024, with the final slated for Saturday, February 10, 2024. The Indian team has qualified for the quadrennial event and is already in Qatar. India was the runners-up way back in 1964.

The T20 World Cup cricket tournament is scheduled to be jointly hosted by the West Indies and the USA from June 4, 2024, to June 30, 2024. Following the Indian team's failure to win the ODI World Cup against Australia at home in Ahmedabad, cricket enthusiasts will be eagerly awaiting the T20 event, hoping for India to redeem itself and secure victory.

The 23rd Summer Olympic Games will open on Friday, July 26, 2024, with the closing ceremony on Sunday, August 11, 2024. India achieved an unprecedented feat by winning 100-plus medals in the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, in 2023. Led by the redoubtable Neeraj Chopra, winner of the World Championship, Olympic Games, and Asian Games gold medals, as well as the Diamond League gold, the Indian contingent aims to feature

on the podium in various events. Athletes like Avinash Sable (3,000m Steeplechase), Tajinder Singh Toor (shot put), Parul Chaudhary (3,000m women's Steeplechase), and a few others hope to draw inspiration from Neeraj Chopra and make India proud. Neeraj Chopra will undoubtedly start as the favourite to retain his Olympic javelin throw title, and one can safely say that, as in the last Olympics, one gold medal is India's and Neeraj's safe custody.

The Indian cricket team will be part of many bilateral series during 2024. Afghanistan, England, New Zealand, and Bangladesh will be visiting India, while the Indian women's team will face the West Indies women's team in December 2024. The men's team will play against Afghanistan from January 11 to 17, 2024. England will tour India from January 25, 2024, to March 11, 2024. Bangladesh will tour India in September 2024, while New Zealand will tour India in October 2024, with the dates of matches in both these tours yet to be finalised.

The Indian men's hockey team won the Asian Games gold medal and secured their berth in the Olympic Games hockey tournament. However, the women's team will have to play the qualifying rounds and hope to advance. Ranchi will host the Paris 2024 hockey qualifying tournament for women from January 13 and will be the first major sports event to be organised in India in the New Year.The men's and women's hockey teams will also feature in the FIH Hockey Pro League matches in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in February 2024.

India will host the SAFF Senior and Junior athletics championships in 2024, and the venues and dates are yet to be decided. Additionally, Goa will be the host for the World Table Tennis Star Contender event from January 23 to 28, 2024. Furthermore, New Delhi will hold the Badminton World Federation India Open, an Olympic qualifying Super 750 tournament, and Lucknow will host the Syed Modi India International tournament in November, followed by two India Super 100 badminton tournaments.

-SS Shreekumar

How not to fix an electric junction box

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I have instructed my subordinates to cover all the junction boxes of street lights. We found 20 street light junction boxes that needed to be covered to avoid pedestrians coming into direct contact with live electric wires while walking on the footpath along 100 Feet Road," said a Bescom engineer.

Expressing concern over the lackadaisical attitude of the authorities concerned towards the rusted and dangerous street light or signal light junction box at BM Shree Junction, M Satish Rao, a social activist, said that it is the responsibility of traffic police and Bescom authorities to ensure the rusted junction box is replaced with a new one.

"The authorities concerned should ensure that no live electric wire is protruding from the street light junction boxes," said Rao.

Describing the Bescom's method of covering open junction boxes of street lights as funny, Vinod Kartavya, a social reformer, said he commutes during weekdays on the same road where Bescom employees covered the rusted junction box with cardboard sheets.

"Seeing this way of closing the electrical junction box, I am confused. Are we really living in the 21st century that too in the so-called silicon valley of India? Is this the way the Bescom works, posing danger to thousands of people who walk on this footpath every day? Who should the public approach now when there is no BBMP council? The absence of the BBMP council indicates the government's apathy towards local governance. Let us hope that Bescom would have a better way or method to cover the street light junction boxes that pose danger to the pedestrians," said Kartavya.

Meanwhile, Bescom, in a press release, claimed to have taken precautions on MG Road, Brigade Road, Church Street, and Residency Road on the eve of New Year celebrations.

The release said that all electrical equipment were inspected and kept covered for safety. "All the wires protruding from street light junction boxes are taped with insulation tapes," Bescom said in a press release.

Urban wildlife rescue gets a fillip

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dedicated centre. With this new facility, we will be able to rescue, keep the animals under observation, and then rehabilitate them," said BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forests (DCF), BBMP.

The centre will be managed by BBP officials and veterinarians from NGOs such as the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRC) located inside the BBP campus.

Wildlife rescue cases from urban areas have gone up. As the city is growing, people are utilising vacant patches of land frequented by these animals and birds. The animals have no other option but to move to urban habitats. These animals have to be rescued and rehabilitated before they are released back to their natural habitats.

"While the number of rescues is going up, there is no SoP in place to handle these animals. With this initiative, we will be able to create a structured mechanism around the process. There will be dedicated rescue teams and veterinarians to attend to these animals, ensuring proper rescue procedures and rehabilitation. We are doing it in association with WRRC to minimise our expenditure while utilising the existing expertise," said AV Surya Sen, DCF and executive director of BBP.

The centre will cater to wildlife in the city and on the outskirts.

ISRO begins 2024 by orbiting X-ray Polarimeter Satellite

Space agency to also test its fuel cell, precursor for powering our space station

#Sriharikota

India on Monday ushered in the New Year in a grand manner by orbiting its X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) ISRO and the space agency will also test its fuel cell, a precursor for powering the Indian space station whenever it is built.

At about 9.10 a.m. on the first day of the calendar year 2024, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C58 (PSLV-C58) standing 44.4-metre tall, with a lift off mass of 260 ton blasted off from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, here.

The rocket carried XPoSat and 10 other experimental payloads on its fourth stage.

Slowly rising up towards the skies with a thick orange flame at its tail, the rocket gained speed with a sound resembling rolling thunder and went up leaving a thick plume while the people assembled at the viewing gallery clapped their hands with pride.

Interestingly, this is the first space mission for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on January 1.

At about 21 minutes into its flight, the rocket ejected XPoSat at an altitude of about 650 km.

Speaking after the launch ISRO Chairman S Somanath said: "The orbit accomplished for XPoSat is excellent as the deviation is just three kilometres. The solar panels of the satellite have been deployed."

After orbiting the XPoSat, the rocket's fourth stage -- PS4 stage -- will be lowered to 350km, about 9.6 degree orbit, by restarting it twice. The Indian space agency will now use the fourth stage as an orbital platform with 10 experimental payloads loaded on it.

"We could have done the experiments at the 650km altitude. We decided to bring down the stage so that we don't create more space debris," Somanath said.

Continuing further he said, the remaining fuel on the fourth stage will be dumped in an unique manner.

The left-out propellant in the PS4 will be disposed of through the main engines as a precursor to enabling the safety of the PS4 stage in atmosphere reentry experiments planned in future, ISRO said.

The oxidiser will be let out first followed by fuel in a predetermined sequence of operations. The existing scheme of spent stage passivation by venting the tank pressure will also be active.

Post passivation of PS4, the control of the stage is transferred to the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) avionics, the ISRO said.

The POEM is configured as a 3-axis stabilised orbital platform for conducting experiments to space qualify systems with novel ideas.

The orbital platform's electrical power requirements are catered by a Flexible Solar Panel in conjunction with 50Ah Li-Ion battery in battery tied configuration.

The orbital platform consists of avionic systems to take care of navigation, guidance, control and telecommands and Orbital Platform Attitude Control System to cater to control of the platform to test the payloads, the ISRO added.

The 10 payloads are from TakeMe2Space, LBS Institute Technology for Women, K.J. Somaiya Institute of Technology, Inspecity Space Labs Private Ltd, Dhruva Space Private Ltd, Bellatrix Aerospace Private Ltd (two payloads) and three payloads from the ISRO.

According to Somanath, ISRO will be testing its fuel cell which will be the precursor for powering the Indian space station whenever it is built.

The Indian space agency will also test its silicon based high energy cells.

The XPoSat is the first dedicated scientific satellite from the ISRO to carry out research in space-based polarisation measurements of X-ray emission from celestial sources. The satellite configuration is modified from the IMS-2 bus platform. The configuration of the mainframe systems is derived based on the heritage of IRS satellites. It carries two payloads, namely POLIX

(Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays) and XSPECT (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing).

The POLIX is realised by the Raman Research Institute and XSPECT is by the Space Astronomy Group of the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC).

According to the ISRO, the three objectives of XPoSat are: (a) To measure polarisation of X-rays in the energy band 8-30keV emanating from about 50 potential cosmic sources through Thomson Scattering by POLIX payload.

(b) To carry out long-term spectral and temporal studies of cosmic X-ray sources in the energy band 0.8-15keV by XSPECT payload, and

(c) To carry out polarisation and spectroscopic measurements of X-ray emissions from cosmic sources by POLIX and XSPECT payloads, respectively, in the common energy band.

In its normal configuration, the PSLV is a four-stage/engine expendable rocket powered by solid and liquid fuels, alternatively, with six booster motors strapped onto the first stage to give higher thrust during the initial flight moments.

The ISRO has five types of PSLV rockets -- Standard, Core Alone, XL, DL, and QL.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Prashantkumar Umeshchand Varnwal S/o. Umeshchand Barnwal, R/o. T2, Third Floor, Vasavi Nivas, No. 743/2, Old Mangammanapalya Road, Muneshwar Nagar Circle, Bengaluru - 560068 have changed my name from Prashantkumar Umeshchand Varnwal to Prashant kumar Umeshchandra Barnwal for all purpose by affidavit sworn before Harisha G. Notary dated 18-12-2023.

I, Nisha Garg Ramdev Garg R/o No.98/40, Flat-002, Thrilokesh, 30th cross, Jayanagar, 7th block, Bengaluru 560070 have changed my name to NISHA GARG affidavit Dt.01/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, NETHRAVATHI ERAPPA, R/a #36.4th Cross,2nd Block, Sri MV Nagar, Kalkere Main Road, Bangalore-16, I, have changed my name to NETHRAVATHI VENKATESHA Vide affidavit ,dated 29/12/2023 Sworn before Notary: M. Rajendra Bangalore

I Hemal Kanaiyalal Kotak R/a 107, DSR Crescent, Green Glen Layout, Outer Ring Road, Bellandur, Bangalore-560103, have expanded my minor child name from Mahek to Mahek Hemal Kotak and my minor child father full name is Hemal Kanaiyalal Kotak and her mother full name is Shitalben Hemal Kotak vide affidavit dt 30.12.2023, before notary B.M.Chandrashekar

I Ajay Kumar Verma S/O, Shivakumar Varma R/o 487, Gpr Grande Layout, Opp. R.k Dhaba, Hosur Main Road, Old Chandapura, Bengaluru 560099 have changed my name to Ajay Kumar.

I, TOUSIF AHAMED MEER AHMED R/a#1250, Kyasamballi Rd, 2nd Crs, Tippunagar, 3rd Block, Bethamangala-563116. I, have changed my name to, TOUSIF AHMED MEER AHMED , Vide affidavit dated 29/12/2023 Sworn before Notary: M. Rajendra, Bangalore

I, SYED NAZIM, R/a #4, Najma Ashiyana, C No.5th Street, CC Rd, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560051, I, have changed my name to, SYED NAZIM HABEEB, Vide affidavit, dated 29/12/2023 Sworn before Notary: M.Rajendra Bangalore

I Hemal Kanaiyalal Kotak R/a 107, DSR Crescent, Green Glen Layout, Outer Ring Road, Bellandur, Bangalore-560103, have expanded my minor child name from Madhav to Madhav Hemal Kotak and my minor child father full name is Hemal Kanaiyalal Kotak and her mother full name is Shitalben Hemal Kotak vide affidavit dt 30.12.2023, before notary B.M.Chandrashekar

I Akbar H Zakaria S/O, Jikar Karim Bhathara R/o No 10,4th B Cross 9th Main Road Kn Extn Subedarpalya Yeshwanthpur Blore-22 have changed my name to Akbar Jikar Bhathara.

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HEALTH TIP: Zinc, abundant in foods like lean meats, beans, and seeds, plays a vital role in immune function

While exfoliation is important, limit it to 2-3 times a week and choose gentle exfoliants like glycolic acid

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HELLO, HAPPY KITTY

Here's how to ensure your cat is kept happy even when indoors

The Australian and American Veterinary Medical Associations recommend keeping cats indoors because they, and wildlife, will be safer.

However, a boring indoor environment may not meet a cat's need for mental stimulation. So how can we keep cats indoors in a way that will keep them safe and happy? When considering animal welfare, the Five Domains Model is a good place to start. The five domains are:

1 **nutrition** – cats need the right type and amounts of food and water
2 physical environment, including temperature, flooring, noise, light
3 **health** – injury, disease, impairment
4 behavioural interactions with people and other animals, which includes the ability to exercise agency – choosing to engage, or not, in a particular activity at a given moment
5 mental state, including feelings such as hunger, pain, fear and comfort, which is an overall assessment of the animal's subjective welfare state.

Keeping a cat indoors denies it the choice of being inside or outside. The sense of control an animal has over its life is an important aspect of its welfare, so how can we compensate for this loss of agency?

Make better decisions - find out what the experts think.

Several ways to help meet your cat's needs are available at various price points. Most help meet the cat's behavioural needs. Some also touch on other needs like the environment or nutrition. All will contribute to your cat's wellbeing.

Free solutions

If you're feeling the pinch of the cost-of-living crisis, you can still provide your cat with plenty of enrichment for free, or at very low cost. There are multiple options.

Cat music has some scientific evidence behind it and is available on YouTube. This will help meet their environmental needs.

Puzzle feeders, which you can buy or make yourself. Cats are predators, so they are biologically wired to work for their food. Puzzle feeders can be a good way to help meet this biological need.

These feeders don't have to be expensive. One homemade example is an egg carton with the cat's food inside and the lid closed, so the cat must find a way to open the carton to obtain the food.

Start with a simple puzzle, and gradually build to more complex puzzles. Only do puzzle feeding if your cat is a good eater and not underweight, though. This will help meet their nutritional and behavioural needs.

Boxes, which cats love to sit in. This hiding behaviour appears to reduce stress Cats will even sit in boxes that don't technically exist – such as outlines on a floor. This will help meet their behavioural needs.

> **Playing with a pet cat for at least five minutes at a time has been associated with reduced behaviour problems, so play with them to help meet their needs**

Clicker training uses a small noise-making device to indicate that the animal has performed a desired behaviour. While more commonly known for dogs, it can also be used in cats.

"Do as I do" training is another option. In this training style, the cat learns to mimic your behaviour, but in a species-appropriate way. For instance, if you stood on your tiptoes and raised your arms, your cat would stand on its hind legs and lift the front paws. This will be good for their behavioural needs.

Playing with a pet cat for at least five minutes at a time has been associated with reduced behaviour problems, so play with them to help meet their needs.

New objects/scents will help meet their environmental needs. Cats enjoy novelty as long as there is also plenty of predictability in their environment. Regularly bringing new things or scents like catnip into your home may be interesting for your cat.

Moderate outlay

If you're tightening your belt but still have a little to invest in cat enrichment, there are lots of choices within the budget you may have to help meet the cat's behavioural needs.

Harness walks (perhaps after some patient training) let your cat spend time outdoors in a safe way and get exercise.

Toys that move erratically are preferable to static toys. These can be toys that you move yourself such as a toy mouse that you move around on the floor. The movement may appeal to the cat's predatory nature.

Puzzle feeders can be made very cheaply (see above), but you can buy one too. It can provide interesting variety for cats, especially after they've had some puzzle experience. Again, only do this with cats who are good eaters and are not underweight.

A scratching post should ideally be vertical or inclined, which are generally preferable to horizontal surfaces. Chenille, rope or cardboard appear to be the preferred materials.

Bougie options

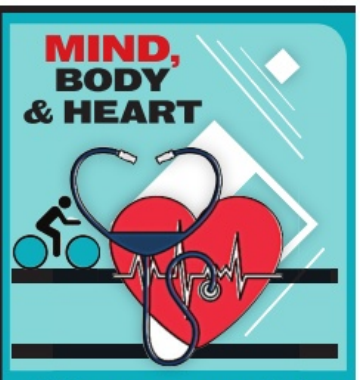
If money is no object, you could consider these pricier options. Both help meet their environmental needs.

Cat shelves make use of vertical space so don't take up a lot of floor space. They provide cats with elevated places to sit, which they like.

Cat enclosures, or "catios", are enclosed, outdoor spaces where cats can safely spend time outside. They may increase cats' quality of life.

Remember, every cat is an individual. What works for some cats may not work for yours. Try preference testing – which requires the cat to choose between different options or environments – to figure out your own cat's favourite things.

(By Tiffani J Howell, La Trobe University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Benefit of having a pet

For a healthy brain
For the growing number of older adults who live alone, having a pet such as a dog or cat by their side could help them maintain a healthy brain, a new study has said.

Slower decline in verbal memory
In the study published in the journal JAMA Network Open, the researchers mentioned that "pet ownership was associated with slower rates of decline in verbal memory and verbal fluency among individuals living alone, but not among those living with others". According to them, pet ownership offset the link between living alone and declining rates of verbal memory and verbal fluency.

More people living alone
The study included 7,945 participants 50 years and older. Researchers found that 28.5 per cent of all Americans lived in single-person households in 2021, indicating that more and more people are living alone as they age.

Rise in demential cases
They also estimated that the number of people with dementia worldwide will increase from 57 million in 2019 to 153 million in 2050. No effective therapy is available as of now to reverse cognitive decline or treat dementia, the researchers mentioned.

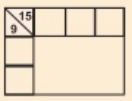
Feeling lonely
"Older adults living alone are at high risk for developing dementia, and living alone is a state that is not easily changed. It is worth noting that compared with pet owners living with others, pet owners living alone did not show faster rates of decline in verbal memory or verbal fluency," the researchers said. According to the researchers, loneliness is a potential mediator in the association of living alone with dementia among older adults. Pet ownership is related to reduced loneliness.

IANS

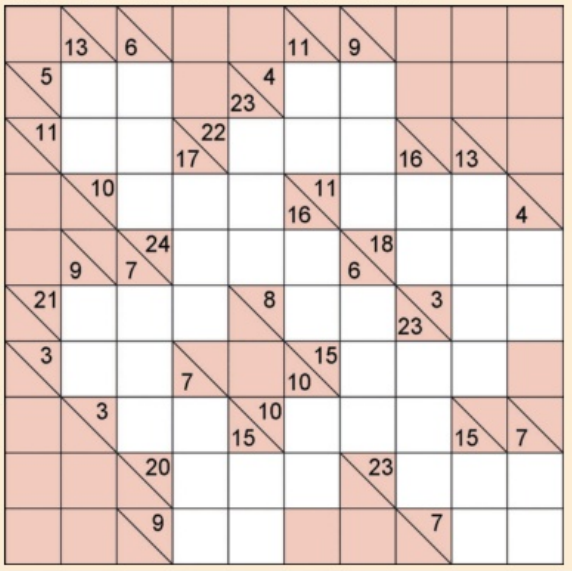
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

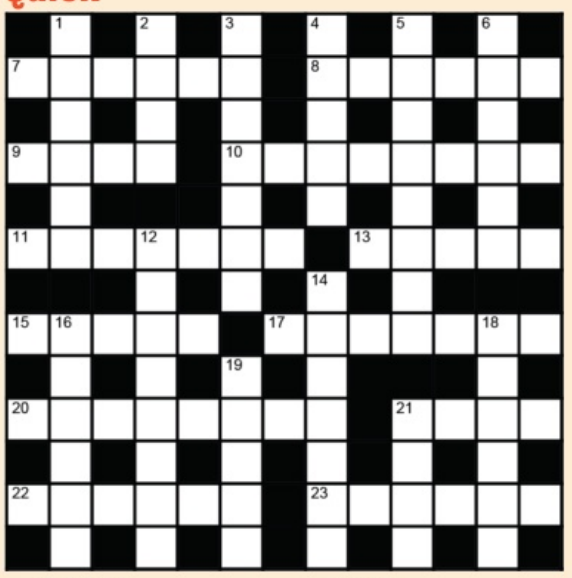
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Puts out by force (6)
8 Umbrella (6)
9 Loosen buttons (4)
10 German physicist, Albert ___ (8)
11 Snub, spurn or ignore en masse (7)
13 Concise (5)
15 Daphne or Calypso (5)
17 Weigh down (7)
20 Disappears (8)
21 Asian noble's title (4)
22 Ill (6)
23 Capital of Assam (6)

DOWN

1 Quentin Tarantino's ___ Unchained (6)
2 Reverberation (4)
3 Expresses forcefully (7)
4 Black wood (5)
5 Shoes, slippers, etc (8)
6 Braids of hair (6)
12 Collapses and sinks (8)
14 TV show instalment (7)
16 Longs for (6)
18 Sculpted figure (6)
19 Dynasty which ruled the area around Bangalore in the 11th century (5)
21 Luv's twin brother (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS P

Y CQWHSQVH QF VXEH SNYK FPWWQJQHKSCR CXKT WXE IHXICH SX THS MNYS SNHEH QF XW QS MEXKT.

Linemaro

Your feet are perfect

Mindchow

Get up early. It's the best part of the day

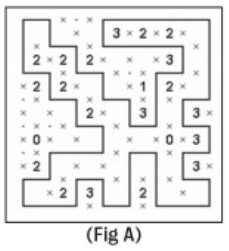
Joke of the day

Ever since her accident my mam spends all day just looking through the window. I want to let her in, but my sisters are having none of it

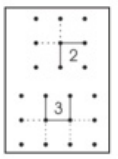
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

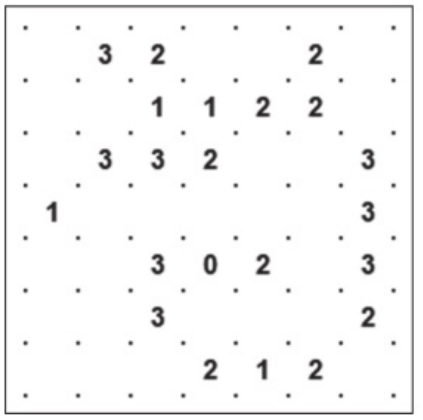


(Fig B) Not Allowed

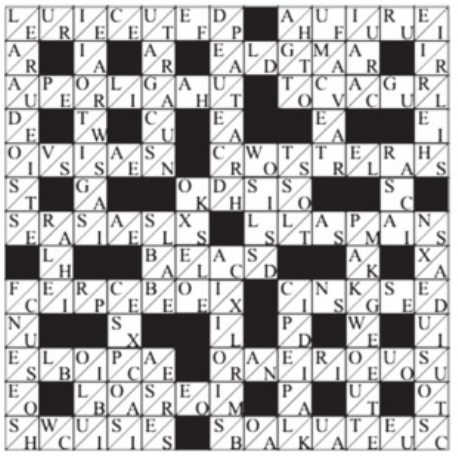
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7			D	
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Purus; 6 Trine;
7 Be red; 8 A Erie;
9 Niger

DOWN

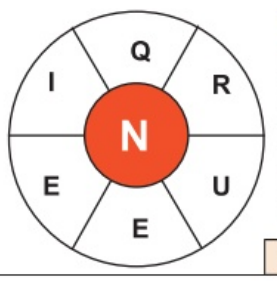
1 Urban; 2 I Erse;
3 True I; 4 Dirge;
5 Nee PR

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?

A	C	F
E	?	J
J	L	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5			4	3				7
	7	9					3	
					1		9	
		4		6				2
6			8	9	7			1
1				5		3		
	1		7					
	6					7	2	
7				2	6			9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7

2 5 9 9

Medium = 3

3 3 5 9

Hard = 14

3 5 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

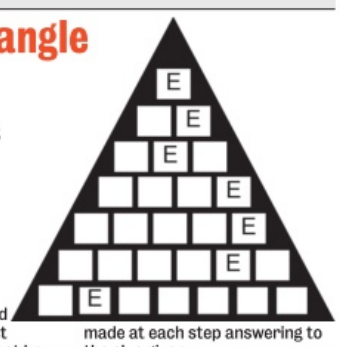
Differences: 1. Name is smaller. 2. Woman is thinner. 3. Tree is missing. 4. Sleeve is different. 5. Brace on side of boat is shorter. 6. Foot is moved.

Riddler

Crack the code to find three male tennis players: VUTUHUH, CKHHQO, TZEAELYS. Code is sequential i.e. if you think A = G then it will follow that B = H, C = I, and so on.

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 Again, prefix
3 As instructed
4 Ready for picking
5 Steeple
6 An arachnid
7 Time spans



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

TAKE TWO EVERY HOUR. THEY'RE THE LATEST MIRACLE IN MEDICINE... EXPENSIVE, TOO!
9-29
THESE ARE NOTHING BUT CANDY!
DARN! I THOUGHT I RUBBED ALL THOSE LITTLE "M'S" OFF

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

LEE AND I SIGNED UP FOR SOFTBALL FOR THE FESTIVAL OF GAMES.
WE'VE BEEN WATCHING THE ANIME "FIRST INNING ROOKIES." EACH EPISODE ACTUALLY TALKS ABOUT DIFFERENT METHODS OF PITCHING AND HITTING.
YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM ANIME. HOW COME WE DON'T HAVE AN ANIME STUDIES CLASS?
YOU'RE PREACHING TO THE CHOIR.

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be busy at work, which may make you mentally tired and affect your day-to-day routine. You may be able to create an overseas network. You should be careful in terms of investments. Natives in the job may get promoted.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the situation is under control. Your destiny is likely to be with you in terms of gains from past investments. You may get some rewards for your hard work. Projects that were stopped without reason are likely to be reinitiated. You may expect peaceful religious travel. You may also plan to donate some amount to any religious place or to some charity.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your moon is not positive; you may have health issues. You may face losses in the business or in past investments. It is advised not to invest in business. Your gains will be converted into losses. So you are advised to stop making investments in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies; otherwise, it will pull you down negatively.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is good for your work; you may be able to perform well in terms of work. Your boss is likely to give you some new responsibility in terms of promotions. Disputes with the partner may be settled. You may lend money to build your assets. Your kids' health may be better now. You are likely to make some investments for kids' futures.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of your professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery are likely to yield positive gains in the near future. Should be careful for elders health.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may be happy due to a blessing from an auspicious planetary combination. You may have some sort of energy, which may increase your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time studying intellectual stuff.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, at the start of the day, may be a dull day. After late evening, you may control negativity. New people may connect with you on the work front. With the help of new people, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before submitting your signature.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, with the help of blessings, you may control your indecisiveness. Your kid's health is better now. Your colleagues may be supportive of your work, which will convert into success in terms of the project. You may expect to get some incentives with the salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, homemaking, art, and culture may do well.

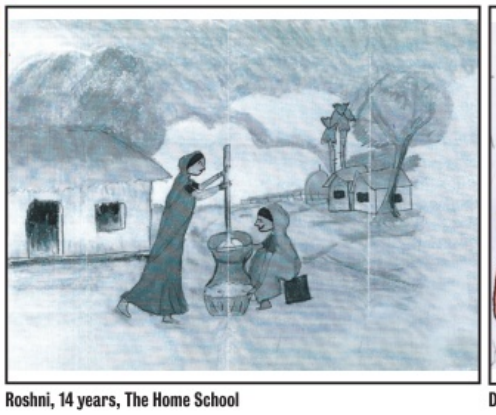
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may plan to migrate from your current place to another place. It is advised to think twice before making decisions regarding migration or a change of place. You may also plan to change jobs. There will be peace in the mind. But your kids' health might make you upset. Love birds shall keep patience before taking an important decision in terms of marriage.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may have good patience. Meditation may help you increase your concentration, which may help speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you, which may help you complete the project before the deadline. You are likely to go on some short trips related to work. An influential person may help you boost your network.

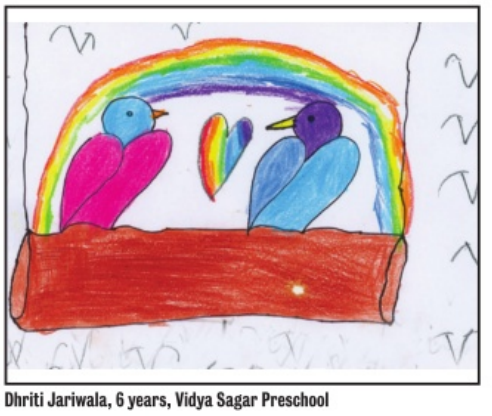
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be busy with family get-togethers and social events.
You may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your prestige among them. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household stuff, which may improve your social status. You are likely to hear some good news from one of your relatives.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you will be busy with family get-togethers. You may re-establish your network, which will give you benefits in the near future. Natives related to glamour, art, fashion, films, and media may plan to do something new in terms of their profession. Students may perform better today in terms of study. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

KIDZONE



Roshni, 14 years, The Home School



Dhriti Jariwala, 6 years, Vidya Sagar Preschool

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
100-(5/10) + √(3 × 12)
√100 + 6
10 + 6 = 16

BULL'S EYE
ENQUIRE, inure, queen, rein, ruin, rune, urine

STRIKE OUT

E	R	E	C	T	E	D	A	F	I	R	E			
R	A		A		E	L	G	A	R					
R		O												
E														
S														
S	A	L	U	T	E	S								
S														
S														

FAST FIVE

U	S	U	R	P
N	I	T	E	R
B	R	E	D	E
A	E	R	I	E
R	E	I	G	N

RIDDLER
Federer, Murray, Djokovic (A becomes K, B becomes L, ...)

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
B: looking across, the letters jump +2, +3 in the alphabet, for example – AbcDef.
Looking down, they progress +4, +5, for example – AbcDefghij.

QUOTE UNCODE
A lifetime is more than sufficiently long for people to get what there is of it wrong.

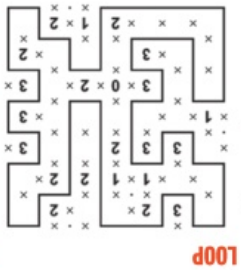
SUDOKU

5	8	1	4	3	9	2	6	7
4	7	9	6	8	2	1	3	5
2	3	6	5	7	1	4	9	8
8	5	4	1	6	3	9	7	2
6	2	3	8	9	7	5	4	1
1	9	7	2	5	4	3	8	6
9	1	2	7	4	8	6	5	3
3	6	8	9	1	5	7	2	4
7	4	5	3	2	6	8	1	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Re, Per, Ripe, Spire, Spider, Periods.

GO FIGURE
2 – 9 + 5 + 9 = 7
Easy
9 + 3 + 3 / 5 = 3
Medium
5 + 3 / 4 x 7 = 14
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO

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Small joys

Actress Tara Sutaria has shared a sneak peek into her cozy and warm New Year getaway, and it is full of "sun, puppies and food."

Tara began her career as a singer in Disney India's 'Big Bada Boom', and later transitioned to acting with the sitcoms 'The Suite Life of Karan & Kabir' and 'Oye Jassie'. She made her film debut in 2019 with 'Student of the Year 2'.

The 28-year-old actress is an ardent social media user, and enjoys 8.8 million followers on Instagram, where she dropped a string of pictures posing candidly as she walks in the sun.

The fashionista is wearing a beige colour off-shoulder dress, and is carrying a matching purse. She opted for a neutral make-up look and had her locks untied.

The photos show her holding a furry friend close to her, and also there are several glimpses of various delicacies including different pastas and curries.

The 'Heropanti 2' actress captioned the post: "Simple joys - sun, puppies and food!"

On the professional front, she was last seen playing the titular role in the survival thriller 'Apurva'. It also stars Rajpal Yadav, and Abhishek Banerjee. **–IANS**

So, is it official?

Janhvi confirms romance with Shikhar

Janhvi accidentally confirmed her romance on the show, also Karan Johar has done it again! The host of the hit show 'Koffee With Karan' got Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor to confirm her romantic involvement with rumoured beau Shikhar Pahariya.

Janhvi made an exciting revelation on the Koffee couch, which has set tongues wagging. The actress, who had fans and the media speculating about her equation with Shikhar, accidentally confirmed her romance while on the show with her younger sister Khushi Kapoor.

The promotional clip, released on Monday, features Janhvi Kapoor being asked to name the three people on her speed dial list. Without missing a beat, Janhvi responded, "Papa, Khushu, and Shikhu..." inadvertently not just revealing that the hunk is in fact her beau, but also revealing his pet name - Shikhu.

The caption accompanying the teaser read, "We are starting off the new year with some crackling energy with the Kapoor sisters. For the first time ever, catch the sister duo - Janhvi & Khushi Kapoor, together on the latest episode of KoffeeWithKaranS8!" **–ETimes**

John snaps up ₹75 cr bungalow

Bollywood actor and producer John Abraham has snapped up a luxury property in the tony Khar area of the megapolis for over Rs 75 crore, according to sources. The 51-year-old actor-producer who is also an astute investor in many realty projects and companies apart from being a sports enthusiast, lives in a sea-facing penthouse on the Hiten Apartments on the Shirley Rajan Road in Bandra West.

Both the actor and his company JA Entertainment did not respond to calls and text messages from PTI. The property, a 13,138 sqft bungalow in the Khar area, has been snapped up for around Rs 75 crore and has the potential for redevelopment.

The property was owned by 81-year-old Pravin Nathalal Shah, who is now a resident of Pennsylvania in the US, and his 10-member family, and includes an open land area of 7,722 sqft and a two-story 5,416 sqft bungalow named Nirmal Bhuvan on the 372, Linking Road, Khar West, according to property consultant Indextaps.com.

According to the broker, Abraham paid Rs 70.83 crore to the seller and Rs 4.25 crore in stamp duties to the BMC on December 27.

The Linking Road is rated the third most popular high street retail in the country after Bengaluru's MG Road. Khar's residential realty commands a price ranging between Rs 40,000-90,000 per sqft. **–PTI**

Kiss & make up

Hollywood stars Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez appeared to be having a heated row as they shopped for expensive jewellery.

The couple are currently holidaying in St Bart's and were spotted indulging in a spot of retail therapy as they stepped out to the high end boutiques in the capital of Gustavia, reports Mirror.co.uk.

The duo were seen shopping for expensive items from Bulgari with Jennifer, 54, trying on key pieces while Ben, 51, took photos of her wearing them.

However, at one point the trip appeared to become too much as Ben looked stressed out and anxious, throwing his hands in the air as he had a heated exchange with a tense looking Jennifer.

As per Mirror.co.uk, the tension didn't appear to last long, however, as they were quickly seen posing for selfies together and kissing one another on the lips.

Jennifer tried on both an elaborate necklace and a pair of earrings while Ben took snaps of her on his phone. She then posed in a striking jewel-encrusted choker from Bulgari's Cinemagia high jewellery collection. Ben again snapped his wife as she showed off the piece in a mirror. Jen looked effortlessly stunning for the trip wearing a white bra-let crop top teamed with a pale pink and white striped maxi skirt for the outing.

She wore her trademark highlighted hair loose and flowing over her shoulders, adding a pair of large pink-toned aviator sunglasses to her look. Jennifer also accessorised with a petite pale pink quilted Chanel bag as she cuddled up to Ben who was dressed in a sage green jumper layered over a white t-shirt and pale beige chinos. The actor also wore a pair of purple and white Jordan's sneakers. **–IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Mom's dream

Amrutha Shree, a software engineer, has joined the list of actors from Shivamogga. Amrutha debuted in Sandalwood in Gumma that was released in 2019. She has now signed two more films.

It is said that Amrutha's mother wanted to become an actress in Sandalwood. "I thank my mother for her support. My mother, who wanted to become an actress, is realising her dream by supporting my acting career. I used to participate in cultural programmes during my college days and have won a few prizes. My grandfather is a theater artist and father is a retired engineer from PWD. I also participated in Miss Karnataka 2021 competition," said Amrutha.

Amrutha said she has acted in two Telugu movies – Aarama Puramlo and Van. "Gumma was released in 2019 but it could not make any impact on the box office. Two other Kannada movies are expected to go on floors shortly," she said.

She said she was craving to act in suspense thrillers.

Over the moon

Debutante director Samarth B Kadkol is set to prove his mettle with his maiden movie Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana (EAK) (left hand is responsible for accident). Kichcha Sudeep released the teaser online recently.

"I am very happy to have the teaser launched by my favourite actor Sudeep. My Sandalwood career began with Sudeep who gave me a chance to work as associate director for Kotigobba-3," said Samarth. He said he narrated the script of EAK to Sudeep before embarking to bankroll it in association with Gurudatha Ganiga. "Sudeep told me the script was very interesting. He also helped and guided me to select the title," the director said. Diganth plays the lead while Nirup Bhandari has a special appearance in the EAK. "The movie will highlight the problems of people who are left handed as most of the facilities and instruments or gadgets were made keeping in mind people who are right handed," he said.